

ABC World News Tonight on 19 and 20 September aired a two-part series on Ronald Rewald that accused the CIA of attempting to arrange the murder of Rewald and of other improper activities. The allegations are totally false and are insulting not only to the CIA but to the US system of justice that has been examining the case. As ABC knows, the CIA along with the rest of the US Government is prohibited by law from engaging in or contemplating assassination. ABC should make whatever evidence it has available to the Justice Department.

To set the record straight, the CIA formally requested that ABC run an Agency response to the series. ABC declined to run the statement in its entirety. We therefore request that it be available to the public in this form:

"We regret that ABC has chosen to air a series of reports wrongly accusing the CIA of engaging in an attempted assassination and other improper practices. These accusations were made by certain persons interviewed in connection with ABC's series on Ronald Rewald, a Honolulu businessman now awaiting trial under a 100-count federal criminal indictment. The ABC report contains false and distorted statements that one local Honolulu newspaper following the case closely has refused to print because of a lack of any substantiation. The Agency obviously is constrained from responding to the series because the case is in litigation. CIA believes, however, that it is important the public know that the report issued by ABC is an example of irresponsible journalism.

The report contains unsubstantiated assertions, facts that have not been fully investigated and conclusions that ignore relevant court documents. The ABC report does a great disservice to the many dedicated men and women who work selflessly without seeking the recognition that is duly theirs in protecting this nation's security."

We have asked that the network retract its report and conduct a thorough and impartial investigation to determine who is responsible for it and what corrective measures ABC will take to prevent a recurrence.

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